

**To:** Town Council  
**From:** Matt Hart, Town Manager  
**CC:** Town Employees  
**Date:** April 26, 2010  
**Re:** Town Manager's Report

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Below please find a report regarding various items of interest to the Town Council, staff and the community:

### **Budget and Finance**

- *FY 2010/11 Budget* - Last week the Town Council adopted a Proposed FY 2010/11 Operating Budget as well as Proposed Capital Fund and Capital and Nonrecurring Fund (CN&R) Budgets for consideration by the voters at the Annual Town Meeting for Budget Consideration. The Annual Town Meeting will be held at 7:00 PM on May 11, 2010 at the Mansfield Middle School Auditorium. Interested residents are encouraged to see the Town's [website](#) for budget-related information. Regional School District #19 will hold its budget referendum on May 4, 2010; polls will be open from 6:00 AM - 8:00 PM.

### **Council Requests for Information/Council Business**

- *Chronicle Editorial* - Please see item 26 in tonight's packet, an [editorial](#) regarding the Mansfield-Tolland probate court district. I did send a note to the editor explaining that the initial recommendation of the chief executive officers from the four towns was to maintain the existing probate courts in Mansfield and Tolland, with the new judge splitting his/her time between the two locations. The probate court administration did not support this recommendation.
- *Regionalism Committee* - On April 16, 2010, the Council's [Regionalism Committee](#) met with representatives from the Town of Windham to discuss regional issues and concerns, including potential opportunities for shared services. We had a productive meeting and decided to investigate the feasibility of establishing a regional collaborative to provide shared services - staff will research this concept and discuss with appropriate stakeholders such as the Windham Region Council of Governments (WINCOG) and local universities that may be able to provide some assistance to this effort. Staff intends to report back to the group in late May.

### **Departmental/Division News**

- *Human Services*
  - The Department of Human Services received a \$50,000 grant from the William Caspar Graustein Foundation to implement Mansfield's Plan for Young Children. This was a very competitive grant award process, with 9 other communities in the state receiving implementation grants.
  - The Tri-Town Coalition to Reduce Underage Drinking hosted a town hall meeting on underage drinking at E.O. Smith High School on April 15. The coalition was started through a grant from the Dept. of Mental Health and Addiction Services that is managed by the Dept. of Human Services. The event was part of a nationwide initiative funded by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Systems Administration (SAMHSA).
  - On April 13, 2010 the Mansfield Advocates for Children (MAC) partnered with the Mansfield League of Women Voters to host a successful community forum on the new elementary school building project. I would like to thank both MAC and the

League of Women Voters for sponsoring this forum, which I believe attendees found informative.

- The Mansfield Youth Service Bureau is proud to announce that Ethel Mantzaris has been awarded the "Volunteer with Youth Award" for 2010. Ethel has been a tireless advocate for youth since early 1970. She has served on the Board of Perception Programs, Inc. in Willimantic since its inception and currently serves as its President. She is a past President of Altrusa International of Northeastern Connecticut; Altrusa is a service network of women in this region that advocates for women, youth and others in need, through its fundraising and volunteer efforts. In addition, Ethel has served on the Youth Service Bureau Advisory Board for a number of years and is presently the chair. She is diligent and resourceful in her advocacy activities and has touched the lives of many Mansfield families and their children.

- *Mansfield Public Library*

- Come hear Diane Postioan, storyteller and comedian, in the Buchanan Auditorium on April 30<sup>th</sup> at 7pm and enjoy a ladies' night out! When Diane performs a story, she turns it into a one-woman play. Diane will tell a couple of folk tales and regale the crowd with outrageous, comedic stories about dating in NY in the '80's. This interactive performance will have everyone laughing out loud as Diane shares stories of great perseverance and deep embarrassment. A hilarious and moving program, it will be entertaining and inspiring for all in attendance. This program is free and open to the public. Light refreshments will be served.

- *Public Safety*

- On April 1, 2010, the Statewide Narcotic Task Force - East Field Office assisted by the Mansfield Resident Troopers Office & State Police, Troop C-Tolland executed a narcotic related search warrant at *The Skeleton's Closet Novelty Shop* in Mansfield. Information was developed that quantities of marijuana and illicit controlled substances were being stored and sold at the business on a routine basis. The search warrant led to the arrest of one individual and resulted in the seizure of approximately 45 grams of marijuana, approximately 65 units of scheduled IV controlled substances, \$335.00 US Currency, numerous items of drug paraphernalia consisting of digital scales, packaging material and other related items.

### **Major Projects and Initiatives**

- *CL&P Interstate Reliability Project Update* - Mr. Anthony Mele of Connecticut Light and Power Company recently contacted the Town Manager's Office and provided the following update regarding the Interstate Reliability Project and planned transmission line expansion through eastern Connecticut, Rhode Island and Massachusetts.
  - ISC-NE is in the process of updating an assessment of need for the New England region. This update is expected to be completed by mid-year 2010. CL&P's planned application to the Connecticut Siting Council will not be filed until this reassessment of need is completed.
  - CL&P will provide Mansfield representatives an update on next steps once the reassessment of need is completed.
  - Engineering and environmental assessments, archeological reviews and survey work is continuing along the utility corridor in eastern Connecticut. Property owners along the corridor are being provided quarterly post card notifications.

### **Member Organizations**

- *Mansfield Downtown Partnership*
  - On April 28<sup>th</sup> at 7pm in the Council Chambers of the Audrey P. Beck Building, the Mansfield Downtown Partnership, Inc., together with key Storrs Center team members from the Town of Mansfield, University of Connecticut and Storrs Center master developer LeylandAlliance will hold an update on the Storrs Center downtown project and associated projects. Over the last several months, much progress has been made on Storrs Center including work on the Storrs Road improvements and securing several letters of intent for the first phase of the project. The April 28 information session will provide the opportunity for an update on all critical aspects of this important project.
  - On April 22<sup>nd</sup>, the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Earth Day, the CT DEP released a movie highlighting the state's environmental successes and challenges as it moves forward. In response to a presentation that Town Planning Director Gregory Padick, and Mansfield Downtown Partnership Executive Director Cynthia van Zelm gave to DEP's Municipal Climate Change conference last month, CT DEP staff contacted Cynthia about using some of the Storrs Center design guidelines and renderings as part of the smart growth advocacy section in the movie. The movie was released and shown at Earth Day events at the State Capitol and at the Legislative Office Building in Hartford. The movie is 18 minutes long and can be accessed off of the DEP website. It will be available to local libraries, non-profits, and local cable stations.
- *Windham Chamber of Commerce* - Tomorrow evening, as part of the Windham Region Chamber of Commerce Annual Award ceremony, Mayor Paterson will recognize Storrs Family Dentistry and Doctors Jim Raynor, Louis Cano and Matt Raynor as Mansfield's *Business of the Year*. The practice was selected for this honor due its long history of community service, including the promotion of youth athletics and the assistance that it has provided to Mansfield's youth service program.

### **Miscellaneous**

- *Passing of Dolly H.R. Whitham* - I wish to express my sadness at the passing of Dolly H. R. Whitham, who died on April 21, 2010 at Windham Hospital. She was great lady who was very active in our community for the past 55 years, including service as Republican Registrar of Voters and as a member of the Mansfield Board of Education. Her civic activities included the League of Women Voters, the Women's Club of Storrs and the Mansfield Historical Society. She also served as a town constable for many years. My condolences to Dolly's family and loved ones, we will certainly miss her wit and counsel, and we sincerely appreciate her many contributions to the town.

### **Upcoming Meetings\***

- Traffic Authority, April 27, 2010, 10:30 AM, Conference Room B, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Regulatory Review Committee, April 27, 2010, 2:00 PM, Conference Room C, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Mansfield Advisory Committee for Persons with Disabilities, April 27, 2010, Conference Room B, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Mansfield Board of Education, April 27, 2010, 7:30 PM, Council Chambers, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Four Corners Water and Sewer Advisory Committee, April 27, 2010, 7:30 PM, Conference Room B, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building

- Sustainability Committee, April 29, 2010, 7:00 PM, Conference Room B, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- IWA/Planning and Zoning Commission, May 3, 2010, 7:00 PM, Council Chambers, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Beautification Committee, May 3, 2010, 7:00 PM, Conference Room C, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Communications Advisory Committee, May 3, 2010, 7:00 PM, Conference Room B, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Agriculture Committee, May 4, 2010, 7:30 PM, Conference Room B, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Mansfield Advocates for Children, May 5, 2010, 5:00 PM, Council Chambers, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Mansfield Downtown Partnership Board of Directors, May 6, 2010, 4:00 PM, Downtown Partnership Office
- Ethics Board, May 6, 2010, 4:30 PM, Conference Room B, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Community Quality of Life Committee, May 6, 2010, 7:30 PM, Council Chambers, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Solid Waste Advisory Committee, May 6, 2010, 7:30 PM, Conference Room B, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Housing Code Board of Appeals, May 10, 2010, 5:00 PM, Council Chambers, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Finance Committee, May 10, 2010, 6:00 PM, Conference Room B, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Town Council, May 10, 2010, 7:30 PM, Council Chambers, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building